

# **State Advisory Committee (SAC) For the Education of Children with Disabilities**

**Advising the NH Department of Education per RSA 186-C:3-b**

**NHDOE, Room 15**

**4:30pm – 7:00pm**

**December 2, 2015**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **Attended: SAC Members**

Maureen Tracey (Chair), Bonnie Dunham (co-chair), Mike Pinard, Kestrel Cole-McCrea, Candace Cole-McCrea, Jason Henry, Karen Rosenberg, Violetta Lortie, Janet Reed, Lisa Beaudion, Heidi Cloutier, Mary Ellen Pantazis, Jean Parsons, Donna Curtin

### **Guest(s):**

Santina Thibedeau, Administrator, Bureau of Special Education, Sarah Fox (on behalf of Eileen Mullen-Kennedy), Maureen Shields (parent/volunteer at PIC), Joe Diamant, Department of Corrections

Welcome, Introductions of SAC Members & Guests

- Maureen began the meeting at approximately 4:34pm
- All attendees introduced themselves and stated their role

### **Nominations:**

Bonnie nominated Maureen Shields, parent of a child with disabilities Heidi seconded; all in favor of Maureen joining the State Advisory Committee.

Maureen (Chair) reached out to Naomi, a professional at Rivier to see if she would be interested in becoming a member of SAC: Naomi is currently teaching a course on Wednesdays through March and is very much interested in joining the State Advisory Committee. Naomi will attend the April meeting.

When Naomi joins SAC, Heidi will step down as a University representative, changing her role on SAC as a parent representative.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- Approval of November 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes
  - Lisa Beaudion made a motion to approve the minutes, Janet seconded.
  - Discussion
    - Candace's name is wrong in two places, change Candance to Candace
  - Acceptance of meeting notes as amended, 10 approved, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions. Motion passed.

## Public Comment & Announcements

Lisa Beaudion:

- Son begins employment at Ocean State Job Lot, which is within walking distance from his residence; received assistance from VR, begins on Tuesday. He is living in his own apartment and cooks for Lisa.
- ABLE NH: Blazing New Frontiers: "Soaring Toward the Stars" 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sustaining Members Event, on January 29, 2016 at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center:
  - Celebrating 25 years since the closing of Laconia State School
  - Chocolate tasting
  - Dan Habib will premier his new film, working title "Intelligent Lives"

Heidi Cloutier

- Save the Date ~ RENEW Facilitator Training Institute presented by the Institute on Disability/UCED March 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Candace Cole-McCrea

- Within her work with the houses of correction and working with addiction and what is happening in the county she asked the County Commissioners to come and discuss the issues (article will be in the Union Leader). The inmates were very well mannered; the inmates felt empowered as the Commissioner's treated them as people.

No public comment

## Legislative Updates (State Representatives Mary Heath and Jack Balcom)

Bonnie reviewed her Legislative Updates with SAC members: a number of the bills retained from last year have been amended.

- HB 301 changed to set up a committee to study New Hampshire's statewide longitudinal data system and any other department of education maintained database that contains student level data.
- HB 471, power of the state board of education and the duties of school boards.
- HB 527 has a new title, requiring school districts employing school resource officers to adopt a written agreement; a memorandum of Understanding with the law enforcement agency.
- HB611, requiring approval by the house and general court that all contracts, agreements, grants, etc. The process currently is four to six months for Governor & Council approval, add this additional piece will take additional months.
- HB 536, relative to payment of special education services for chartered public school students and federal funds for chartered schools should pass as amended.
- Inmates should have been found eligible in school, as once incarcerated no longer eligible for identification: they should be able to access special education services. State decided to adopt the final language on this, HB-1426-FN,
- Discussion around inmates:
  - Possibly next meeting: history around the difference between jails and Houses of Correction.
  - Unmet needs of students with disabilities.
  - Present, recommendation and advocate for needs of inmates.

Jason to confer with other Superintendents of the Houses of Correction for the possibility of a presentation in February as resources differ in each House of Correction.

Updates for times and dates for public hearings will be included on the updates in January. These are also available on the website.

## **Old Business: including Selecting Priority Areas and workgroups moving forward**

Tabled, as Sue requested the update and was unable to attend tonight; will place on the January agenda.

## **Update from the Bureau of Special Education ~ Santina**

- OSEP Director Melody Musgrove is leaving at the end of year; have not heard who the new person will be.
- Mary Mayo who processed all our rulemaking has retired, Diane Fenton began on Monday in Mary's former position.
- The ESEA Elementary and Secondary Education Act has new momentum, titled "Every Student Succeeds Act. Once ESEA is finalized and implemented than IDEA will follow suit for updates. Could take eighteen to twenty-four months for reauthorization of IDEA.
- Under our waiver, the Department is processing Smarter Balance for grades 8 to 11, using SAT for grade 11. Beginning in March, students will be taking the SATs, the Department is working with College Board, have found that more students with disabilities are applying for college as they have taken SATs at school.
- The November 24<sup>th</sup> Bookshare training was well received and registration was filled to capacity. One of Janet's teacher participated and very helpful information was received.
- Over the years the Bureau invites the SAC Chair to attend the OSEP conference in July. Have invited Bonnie in the past, will invite Maureen next year.
- Technology Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) provides technical assistance for Part B State Advisory Panels. Santina would like to invite them to come to New Hampshire to talk the members of SAC about the functions, bylaws, and workgroup sessions. Santina distributed a flyer on TAESE to provide additional information. Other State's State Advisory Committee and/or State Advisory Panels meet on a quarterly basis, whereas New Hampshire's SAC meets monthly.
- The Bureau's independent evaluation, Pingora would like to know what IDEA says are the functions of the State Advisory Committee, what SAC is doing for IDEA and why SAC is doing the other stuff.
- Pingora was at the Department for two days; SAC had a role in the input and selection of the independent evaluator. Pingora spent one day, what does monitoring mean: all indicator monitoring, dispute resolution piece, monitoring of schools districts and concept of program approval.
- Pingora met with SAC members on the second day and had a teleconference on December 11<sup>th</sup> with SAC members who couldn't make the face to face meeting.

## **New Business, Emerging Issues, Announcements, Current Events, Public Comment**

In the Rochester schools; teachers are discouraged due to low scoring in math. Safe Schools for mental illness is doing great at Rochester. Rochester is also a PBIS school; resources have been provided to Rochester of the past years, working on system building which can take a long time; proof will be in the dat.

Santina has offered for the Bureau Administration of the Office of Student Wellness, Mary Steady to talk about Safe Schools/Healthy Students and Project AWARE for SAC members.

The Governor's Task Force on what is needed in the State, one of the representatives can report out. Office of Student Wellness works with mental health and at risk, mental health first aid. Is there education and resource mapping for what we do have for mental health? What they are doing and what they are offering? Have Mary Steady come to talk the about the difference between the grants and their priorities.

SAC members held a discussion around mental health and substance abuse in the State of New Hampshire. Is there a clearing house, publicity for all to use resources that are unknown?

Steps to take:

Heidi will fill in on the Collaborative

Candace will provide information around mental health

Mary Steady attend a SAC meeting to inform the members about the initiatives of Safe

Schools/Healthy Students and Project AWARE

Bring in stakeholders for substance abuse around the State; collaborative growing bringing all of the "silos" together: Statewide and local initiatives.

Lisa Beaudion inquired "it our mandate to create resource mapping for mental health and substance abuse, the SAC committee should be focusing on students Pre-12 with disabilities; Inclusion and unmet needs of students with disabilities.

Heidi shared a resource: PBISworld.com

Challenging behaviors of a child, resources, and lesson planner

Donna: Curtain is misspelled, is Curtin.

Bonnie has copies of the minutes of the meeting of the Commission ensuring children who are attending Charters Schools if anyone is interested in a copy. The Commission's report is not due until next October, making recommendations for legislation.

Janet Reed made a motion to adjourn, Jean Parsons seconded, all in attendance approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:58pm.

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, January 6, 2016, 4:30pm-7:00pm ~ NHDOE, Room 15